Enquiry on missing bags of Hajis

4568. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bags of nearly hundered Hajis returning to the country by Air India recently were found missing on arrival at the IGI airport;

(b) whether any inquiry into the circumstances leading to the missing of such a large number of bags has been made by the Government.

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the number of bags that have been recovered and returned to the owners and the compensation required to be paid by Government for the remaining missing bags; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government for the laxity and irresponsibility shown by Air India in loading the bags'?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Most returning Haj pilgrims have considerable excess baggage which cannot be brought on the same flight. Such excess baggage was cleared by Air India on its scheduled flights. The question of compensation in this case would not arise as the baggages were subsequently handed over to the pilgrims/Haj committee.

Acquisition of Building by AI at London

4569. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the London office of Air India acquired a building named "The Highway" about 7 km. beyond Hethrow Airport in December 1994;

(b) if so, the purpose for which this building was acquired and the amount paid by the authority;

(c) whether same portion of this building has been surrendered; if so, the reasons therefor and the losses incurred; and

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry in this matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The property was acquired in order to relocate all the Departments, except booking office, under one roof at London at the price of UK£ 2.5 Million (Approximately INR 12.6 crores).

(c) and (d) The total area of the building is 25,123 Sq. ft. and the entire building has been leased out to M/s. Banteo for UK£ 537,000 p.a. effective December 4, 1998 while Air India has hired alternate accommodation at a cost of UK£ 132,000 p.a. This making a net gain of UK£ 405,000 p.a.

Recommendations of Cabinet Committee on Security

4570. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures recommended by the Cabinet Committee on Security in the aftermath of hijacking of IA flight IC-814 to Kandhar; and

(b) whether it is a fact that none of the measure has been implemented as yet and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) In the aftermath of incident of hijacking of Indian Airlines plane, following measures have been taken to further strengthen security at airports:

(i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in place of State Police for security duties at the operational airports in a phased manner. The CISF has already taken over the security duties at Patna, Jaipur, Guwahati, Vadodara, Port Blair, Rajkot, Ranchi, Agartala, Bhopal, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

(ii) Frisking of passengers and hand baggage at the time of entry